

## "CONSPIRATORS' PARK" AND ITS PROMOTERS.

More Light Shed by the Herald Upon  
the Plot Against the Establish-  
ment of the State Park.

BASSELL, LUMBERMAN AND COMMISSIONER.

True to His Calling, He Is Naturally Op-  
posed to the Preservation of the  
Adirondack Forests.

CHOICE LAND OMITTED, AND WHY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
ALBANY, Jan. 14, 1891.—The handsomest and most elaborate report published in the State annually emanates from the Forest Commission. They present beautiful views of picturesque Adirondack scenery and eloquently describe that glorious region which the commission has sworn to protect, but which the HERALD has shown they have handed over to their business partners, the lumbermen.

These reports all bear the legend, "Protect the forest." The legend should be extended by the addition of the words, "From Theodore B. Bassell."

The HERALD has proved that Commissioner Bassell is a stockholder and trustee in the Beaver River Lumber Company, with Henry D. Patton, of the Everett Company for an exchange of lands with the estate has been approved by the Forest Commission, while all similar applications have been denied, and that a great and vast conspiracy exists, in which Bassell is personally and financially interested, against the establishment of a grand State park, so that the wildest parts of the Adirondack region may be left to the mercy of the woodman's axe.

THAT GREAT COMMISSIONER.  
The worse than useless Forest Commission consists of Theodore B. Bassell, the lumberman, of Lewis county; Sherman W. Knevals, a lawyer, of New York; and Townsend Cox, a genial old gentleman of Queens county.

Bassell is the only one who knows a good piece of woods when he sees it. To put such a man, however, as Bassell into a commission to protect the forest is like putting a wolf into a sheepfold. From the very nature of his business, that of cutting down trees, he is opposed at heart to the preservation by the State of the forest.

Knevals does not know anything about woods nor the science of forestry. He means well, however, but Bassell has slipped the ring of patronage through his nose and leads him about as he chooses.

Commissioner Cox is perhaps the best of the lot. He finds it impossible to stand up against the majority of the Board—Bassell and Knevals. Bassell, with his lumber schemes to work, and Knevals, with his craving for patronage, are afraid to break with each other because Cox might side with one and defeat the purposes of the other. Hence, for mutual defence they remain allies and Cox is left out in the cold.

To prevent Cox from raising a rumpus in the Board they gave him a deer park in the Catskills to nurse. This is a pet hobby with the old gentleman, and while he is busy with that the other Commissioners handle the Adirondack end of the business.

I have every reason to believe that Mr. Knevals is honestly and sincerely in favor of an Adirondack Park of such a size as the people desire and need. Mr. Cox is also in favor of a park of this kind. But the commission will not recommend that kind of a park nevertheless, though two of the three Commissioners really want it. The reason is plain. Let the State enter into the North Woods as a purchaser and the State park idea takes form, and there would be a boom in the price of land all through that region. This was the thing most dreaded by the lumber conspirators. They relied upon Mr. Bassell, their business partner in the commission, to prevent this, and he did not fail them.

In the face of these facts Mr. Knevals can prove that the commission is, or ever was, in favor of a State park and is not controlled by the lumbermen. But he cannot prove it, for he ought to be given a life position on the United States Supreme Bench.

There is very little difference of opinion among those familiar with the north woods and honestly desirous of a State park as to how much and what territory should be included in the park. They are unanimous in demanding that the entire Adirondack forest region shall be embraced in the park, not alone for the pleasure and recreation of the people, but for what is far more important—to serve as a vast reservoir of moisture.

In reporting upon this subject the special commission appointed to look into the matter of preserving the Adirondacks used strong language. The commission consisted of Charles S. Sargent, D. Williams James and Edward M. Shepard. It was on the report of these experts that the State Commission in Forestry was established. In this report we find that "the most important function of the Adirondack forests is found in the influence which they exert upon the streams heading among the hills of the Adirondack plateau, which distribute their rain fall of the State. These forests are essential to the continued prosperity of the State. Their influence is felt far beyond the limits of the State, and their destruction must be followed by widespread commercial disaster. It will be seen that the existence of these forests makes this region more valuable to the people of the State of New York than any other part of the State. Their destruction would reduce this whole region to an unproductive and dangerous desert."

"The Hudson River, born of mountain streams, flows down the southern slopes of the Adirondack Mountains. The Mohawk is largely fed by streams rising under the shadow of the Adirondack peaks. Each receives a large part of its water supply from the Upper Black River. Many other streams important to the people of the State flow out of the Adirondacks into the St. Lawrence. Great changes have been noticed in these streams since the area of the Adirondack forests has been materially reduced. The water has become turbid and the flow has been reduced in the memory of men now living from thirty to fifty per cent. This is the effect of forest destruction in the past, and the evil will increase in the future under the existing condition of affairs."

On this report the Legislature created a forest commission to preserve the forests. The HERALD has shown that it has been captured by the lumbermen and that Commissioner Bassell is engaged with them in a vast conspiracy to prevent the establishment of a State park.

It was impossible for the Forest Commission to ignore this report and necessary for them to do so. They were forced to do so, and the project of creating a State park.

They therefore at once reported by bill, in which they asked for \$20,000 to purchase land for a State park at a price not to exceed \$1.50 an acre, which is not a good price for even wild Adirondack property. The commission knew that \$20,000 would not buy much of a park, and that \$1.50 was not a tempting bid for sellers. They were obliged to pretend, however, that they were very anxious to get this money "for a starter," and the appropriation was granted.

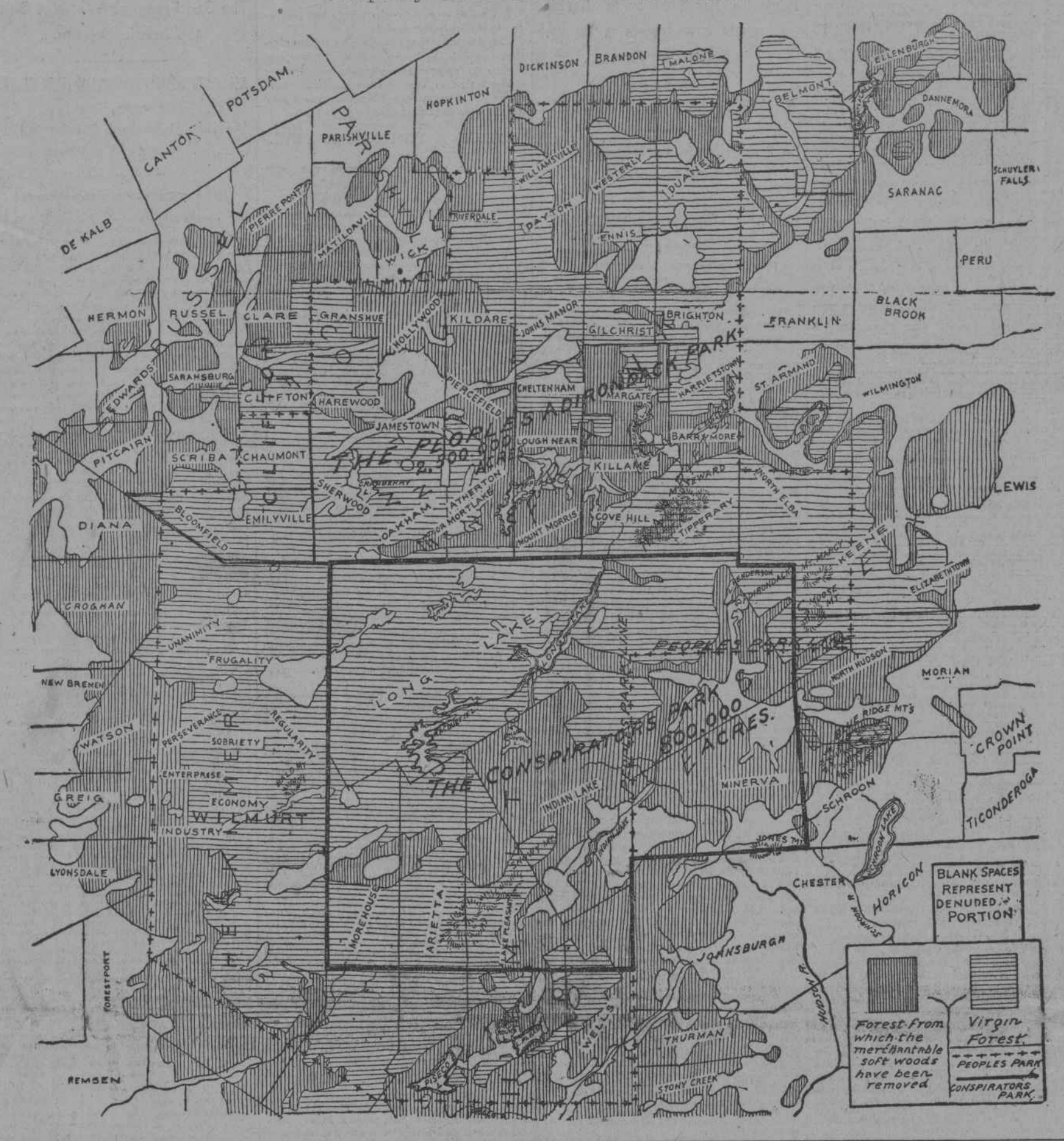
In signing the bill the Governor wrote: "I cheerfully approve this bill, and I trust that its enactment may lead to such a result."

The Governor's expectation has never been fulfilled. The commission has not bought a foot of land for a State park and never intended to. Given an opportunity and the money to begin the creation of a State park, and urged on to do its duty by the Governor's message to the Legislature, the commission refused to act.

This refusal is not merely a failure to comply with the orders of the State, but is proof positive of what I have charged against the commission.

## LIKE A POSTAGE STAMP ON AN ENVELOPE.

Map Showing the Relative Size of the State Park as It Should Be and as It Would Be if the Adirondack Conspiracy Should Be Allowed to Succeed.



Mr. Bassell, who, as I have shown, controls the commission, did not dare oppose the interests of his business partners, the lumbermen, and as his own interest conflicted with that of the State he prevented the purchase of any land for a State park.

It cannot be claimed by Mr. Knevals that the commission's sin was one of omission through negligence or inability to get the land, for hundreds of acres of good forest have been offered to the commission at \$1.50 an acre. Offers to sell at this figure were received by the score at the Commissioner's office and were turned over to the commission. Men and agents have come to Albany and beseeched the Commissioners to buy their Adirondack land at the price stated. To all the letters and entreaties to buy the commission has replied that the land was not wanted.

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tend into Essex county so as to include the elevated region of the Adirondack plateau, Mount Marcy, Mount McIntyre, old White Face and the beautiful Keene Valley region.

In the rough this will contain about two million five hundred thousand acres. Its most beautiful portions are the extreme northern end, which is the upper portion of Herkimer county, and the spur running into Essex county, which takes in the mountains and the lovely Keene Valley.

too good.  
"The Conspirators' Park" includes none of these lovely spots. They are too choice to be wasted on a mere park in the opinion of the commission. They are to be kept for the lumbermen.

Of course "The Conspirators' Park" contains some lakes and some good land. It would not do to have only poor land. Yet 300,000 of the 800,000 acres are absolutely worthless and desolate. All that portion south of Blue Mountain Lake, as far east as the boundary of "The Conspirators' Park" and west as far as a line running north and south through Little Moose Lake, is either farm land stripped of timber or burned over. The lines I have given of "The Conspirators' Park" are Bassell's own. That is the park he favored up to the time the HERALD exposed the scheme. It may be that he will feel forced to advocate a somewhat larger park now, but it is \$1,500 a cent that the committee will not recommend such a preserve as is shown in the map of the people's park. Bassell and his lumber friends will not allow one foot of the upper portion of Herkimer county, which is all virgin forest, to be included in the park nor one acre of the primal woods they are trying to wipe out and Western townships in Franklin county.

RAPID TRANSIT NEAR.

SENATOR SHEARD TAKES COMMON SENSE TO HIS REPUBLICAN CONFEREES.  
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 14, 1891.—Another round in the rapid transit fight has been fought. Platt this time landed over the ropes. There was not much fight left in him, but his benches in the caucus of the republican Senators held last night undertook to insist upon the same line of policy with regard to rapid transit that the Boss so expensively adopted last session. They were ignominiously defeated. Titus Sheard, a staunch Miller man, was chairman and the Miller men carried everything before them by threatening to bolt if the old policy was revived.

Sheard began by saying that it was no longer possible to deny New York rapid transit. The republicans would commit a grave political error if they stood in its way any longer. To his mind a proper bill giving the Mayor power to appoint the Commissioners and all vacancies was demanded. He also suggested that the vote of the entire commission of five be necessary to do any executive act. This, he thought, would prevent any combination against the true interests of the people and would be sufficient to block any political scheme, three of the Commissioners being democrats and two republicans. The party added nothing to the plan, but the vision that in filling vacancies the Mayor should select men of the same character and political faith as those they succeed.

This was gall and wormwood to the Platt Senators. Sheard called upon each Senator to give his view as to the proper policy to pursue on this question.

MILLER MEN ALL RIGHT.  
Last winter Sheard was ill at his home. Not having a man of his backbone to lead them the same Miller Senators had replied to the same questions that he now asked by sneaking over to the Platt side and defeating rapid transit. To Sheard's question of last night every Miller man replied that he was in favor of just such a bill as the chairman had outlined. Judge Robertson even went further. He stated very plainly that he would not vote for any other kind of a bill.

O'Connor spoke in equally plain terms, and wonderful to relate, even Sloan plucked up courage enough to stand with his friends.

To Kasse's discomfiture the debate showed clearly that Platt's iron rule of the Senate is over. He could not even control the caucus. If a vote could not be taken for any other kind of a bill, then he would have found seven Senators who would have taken the stand that they propose to take for the Kasse rapid transit bill of last year, with the home rule principle included.

This means rapid transit this year and that very soon.

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN.  
The republican plan is to take Senator Stewart's bill and amend it in all minor particulars so that it will conform to Kasse's bill of last year. Then

the Mayor's commission will be rejected, the unanimous vote clause inserted and power given to the Mayor to fill vacancies as above described.

This is really the true bill, but it would never do to let a democrat have the honor of passing a rapid transit bill. Thus has the HERALD's battle of last year been won.

THE RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF NEW YORK asking the Legislature to compel the running of fifteen mile trains all night on the Ninth avenue "R" road was received by the Senate and referred to the Railroad Committee.

ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE STATE.  
Leader McClelland showed a prod at "Conspirators' Park" this morning. He turned the point aside. The prod was a carefully drawn resolution providing, as was intimated in the HERALD several weeks ago, for a committee having power to send for persons and papers in the investigation of census methods, with a view to an enumeration of the State. The committee was not appointed this morning because Acker raised the point that the resolution was not in order. McClelland claimed to be privileged, but the Speaker sustained Acker. This only delays the circus. Mr. Porter will have to stand up to the rack.

IN THE SENATE.  
The Stadler bill to allow the sale of wine at balls after one o'clock in the morning, except on Sunday, was sprung in the Senate this morning and passed. Van Gorder and Sloan were the only ones who voted against it. Eight other republicans voted for it, and Acker, of New York, did not vote at all. McClelland, of Brooklyn, had the bill amended so as to exempt Brooklyn.

Commissioners merchants will be interested in a bill of Mr. Sage. It compels them to report all receipts and sales when made to consignors or be liable to a five hundred dollar penalty, to be used for by him. It is a misdemeanor to make a false report.

Mr. Osborn wants a footway added to the Poughkeepsie bridge, and Mr. Cooney asks that the stocks and bonds of all cities be exempted from taxation.

Besides asking for \$300,000 for the Twenty-third regiment armory in Brooklyn, Mr. Aspinall presented a bill requiring that all receipts from the New York and Brooklyn Bridge be turned over to the two cities, and appropriation be then made for maintenance, instead of the residue as now going into the treasuries of the cities.

NEW ALLIANCES ORGANIZED.  
THE FARMERS' MOVEMENT EXTENDED TO PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW YORK.  
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
ENR, Pa., Jan. 14, 1891.—The Farmers' Alliance and School of Agriculture of Pennsylvania organized here to-day with 230 delegates. The representation was heaviest from the Western and Northern parts of the State. In the permanent organization George Brown, of Pottsville, was elected president, J. H. Phillips, of Northampton, vice president, and George W. Moore, of Northeast, secretary.

The New York State delegates withdrew and organized, with Thomas Shanks, of Marvin, Chautauque county, president; S. M. Sweeney, of Jamestown, secretary, and J. A. Johnston, of Sherman, State organizer.

N. Ashley, of Des Moines, National Organizer of the Farmers' Alliance of the Northwest, addressed the meeting to-night. The Ocola platform will be acted on to-morrow.

GOVERNOR PECK'S MESSAGE.  
MADISON, Wis., Jan. 14, 1891.—The inaugural message of Governor Peck to the State Legislature attacks the Bennett Compulsory Education law as interfering with religious practices, and deems it unwarranted by the condition of the children in the State. He believes Wisconsin parents are not unmindful of the duty they owe their offspring, and he recommends the unconditional repeal of the law. The Governor treats of the law as an interference with parental rights.

The Governor comments in severe terms upon the practice of State Treasurers, wherein they have loaned out the State's money and put the interest received from such deposits into their own pockets. He asks the Legislature to devise some law by which this money may be placed in banks within the State, subject to the call of the State Treasurer.

DELAWARE'S GOVERNORSHIP.  
WILMINGTON, Jan. 14, 1891.—The failure of the legislative houses yesterday to convene in joint session to canvass the vote cast for Robert J. Reynolds and officially proclaim him Governor elect has caused some uneasiness. Hitherto this has been done on the Tuesday preceding the inaugura-

tion of a new Governor. When the omission was noticed last night the Legislature had already adjourned over to Monday evening next. The omission was attributed to an oversight, but Speaker Donahoe, of the Senate, who presides at the court and proclaims the result, states that the failure to receive the Senate's convoluted returns was the real difficulty. He will procure the missing returns and have the business attended to on Monday evening.

The delay has given rise to some talk of the returns being purposely held back, a rumor which lacks authentication. The official certificate is a constitutional prerequisite to the inauguration, which takes place next Tuesday.

CONNECTICUT'S DEADLOCK.  
BOTH PARTIES TAKE A BREATHING SPELL—WHAT TUESDAY MAY BRING FORTH.  
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
HARTFORD, Jan. 14, 1891.—Both political parties took a resting spell after Tuesday's exciting events. The status of the dual State government remained unchanged to-day, and the democratic State officials appear to rest content with their formal demands of yesterday afternoon. None of them even visited the Capitol.

Everybody is asking, What next? Nobody knows. Each political party has it in its power to extend the deadlock indefinitely. The democrats are talking of quo warranto proceedings by the democratic officials to have it determined by what right the republicans holdovers continue in possession.

This would be the usual legal step following the formal demands for the offices, but when the action will be taken, if at all, is not determined.

One plan of manoeuvre which it is said the republicans contemplate for next Tuesday is for the House to convene with the democratic Senate in declaring the election of three of the democratic officials—Lieutenant Governor Alsop, Secretary of State Phelps and Comptroller Smith.

Some democrats, however, assert that this scheme to break the deadlock, at least in a measure, should not be accepted by the democratic Senators without making themselves the laughing stock of all Connecticut, they having already declared the whole democratic ticket elected.

The next feature in the republican programme would be to declare there was no election of Governor by the people and that the Legislature should elect that officer. This would best General Merwin into office if the plan could be carried out.

The programme of the republicans is said to be based upon the report which the House investigating committee is to make.

Coupled with this rumor is another that the House, basing action upon the report of its committee, may declare General Merwin elected. The Senate, however, will never concur and the republicans would only have wasted their time.

Governor Bailey, in his reply to the demand of Governor Morris, made his position clear when he said that he would recognize no successor who had not been declared elected by both houses. This would hit Merwin as well as Morris.

The investigating committee got at work to-day and the action of the democratic members in withdrawing indicates democratic determination to stand to the position heretofore taken.

The three democratic members attended at the opening, but withdrew when the five republicans voted to take no evidence except as to the accuracy of the returns of the election officers in the towns and to vote upon the report of the committee. The democratic insisted that if they were to go into the investigation at all it must be extended to bring out other facts bearing upon the legality of the election.

Many wretched blunders in the returns were developed, indicating surprising ignorance on the part of election officials, irrespective of party.

The committee will hold a short session next Monday.

SENATOR CAMERON'S RIVAL.  
HARTFORD, Pa., Jan. 14, 1891.—Representative A. L. Taggart has entered the contest for the United States Senatorship as an independent candidate against Senator Cameron. Mr. Taggart has made an appeal to the different granges in the State to assist him.

VILAS FOR SENATOR.  
MADISON, Wis., Jan. 14, 1891.—General Briggs sent an official notification to Colonel Vilas yesterday that he was out of the race for the United States Senatorship. There is no doubt now that Colonel Vilas will get it. The Senatorial caucus will be held early next week.

## LITTLE JACK HORNER AS PLAYED BY HILL.

When He Pulls the Senatorial Plum  
Out of the Caucus Pie, Who  
Will Get It?

HIE MAY POSSIBLY KEEP IT.

Perry Belmont's Name Added to the List  
of Candidates Whom the Govern-  
or Is Supposed to Favor.

DEMOCRATS GROWING RESTLESS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 14, 1891.  
Little Jack Hill sits very still watching the caucus. He'll stick in his thumb and pull out the plum, and say, "That's mine."

The democratic party is lost—not lost in the sense of being defeated, but like a man in the woods who misses his road. He starts out over and over again, and always comes back to the same point. So it is with the Senatorial problem. Hundreds of rumors are afloat, but when run down Hill seems to be the only man that the party will elect. And the Governor is keeping the party in the woods.

The Legislature has met, organized and adjourned until next Monday night. The democratic caucus meets at five o'clock Monday afternoon, and it is not likely that at five minutes before that hour any one will know any more about who is to be Senator than he does to-day. To say that the democracy is chafing under the silence of its dictator mildly expresses the feelings of prominent legislators. Their first desire is to get a feeling from Hill, even at this late hour, as to what is going to be done, and the feeling that they are being treated like puppets, while the eyes of the nation are upon them, so exasperates them that threats of bolting are in the air. These gentlemen may squirm now, and perhaps if Hill selects a distasteful candidate they might swallow the dose with a wry face. But if Hill intends to take it himself the squirming will cease and the scowls will subside. In short, it is not opposition to Hill which is creating the dissatisfaction, but intense resentment against his assumption that they are not to be consulted, but must accept any candidate he may see fit to name.

PROMINENT POSSIBILITIES.  
That the plum in the caucus pie is Murphy is no longer believed. And Judge Barker has also fallen by the wayside. Perry Belmont is suggested, and somebody says William C. Whitney. All these suggestions seem to emanate from Hill, who believes that the safety of his plan is best served by a multiplicity of candidates. This would give him the right to say in the event of his own election that he had not interfered with the caucus, but was the choice of his candidate, but on the other hand had tried to have it select another man.

The republican legislators went away chuckling to-day over the claim that they outnumbered Hill in peanut politics. It was their policy to adjourn the House as soon as possible before any action could be taken by the democrats to oust their republican whose seats are contested. By adjourning over to Monday night no opportunity will be given to the democrats to select a candidate, and that party will be obliged to go into the joint Senatorial caucus with the narrow margin of two majorities.

The republican claim that Hill's original plan was to have the Legislature sit until to-morrow night for the purpose of unseating these republicans, which would give him a still greater margin over the democrats, according to republican reasoning there were a number of restive democrats who would have acted with them in hanging about the caucus and preventing its adjournment. Whether this is true or not Hill flanked the enemy by giving Leader McClelland a resolution to introduce adjourning the House once. All the corroboration could be made in the statements of several democratic members that they had made up their minds to oppose him whenever they could get a chance to do so. A republican motion to adjourn would have afforded an opportunity which they would have embraced.

TAMMANY MEN BITTEN.  
Some of the Tammany men are particularly bitter against Hill on account of the alleged surrender of their own organization to him. The way they talk gives cause for concern. They are all in a ferment between Grant and Croker. They resent the fact that Police Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Gilroy are here ostensibly to deliver the Tammany vote to Hill's party, and to elect any one of the gentlemen mentioned. He will suggest that the only man that can be agreed upon by all is David B. Hill. The committee will be appointed to wait upon the Governor and surprise him. He will be waiting for the committee. He will reply: "Oh, yes, I understand there is to be a United States Senator chosen. I had not thought of it, but I will do it if you demand that I accept it. I am a democrat."

THE DEADLOCK EXAMINED.  
I find that the idea growing stronger every day among democrats that there is no way out of the Senatorial dilemma but to elect David B. Hill and that Hill will be elected is a very old story. It is a programme in the caucus next Monday from the present outlook will be as follows:—An informal bill will be taken in the caucus. Chapin, Weed, Murphy, Haines, Russell, Belmont, and Croker, Packer, Whitney and perhaps others will receive a few votes each. Then some patriot will advise and will say that it is not the policy of the committee to elect any of the gentlemen mentioned. He will suggest that the only man that can be agreed upon by all is David B. Hill. The committee will be appointed to wait upon the Governor and surprise him. He will be waiting for the committee. He will reply: "Oh, yes, I understand there is to be a United States Senator chosen. I had not thought of it, but I will do it if you demand that I accept it. I am a democrat."

THE WORD BOOM CRIPPLED.  
The word boom seems to be on crutches. Senators McClelland and Croker are said to have gone to the Governor to-day and told him that they would not vote for Smith M. Weed. David did not faint. He said nothing. The committee will be appointed to wait upon the Governor and surprise him. He will be waiting for the committee. He will reply: "Oh, yes, I understand there is to be a United States Senator chosen. I had not thought of it, but I will do it if you demand that I accept it. I am a democrat."

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